

# PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

PCT

see form PCT/ISA/220

## WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing  
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference  
see form PCT/ISA/220

**FOR FURTHER ACTION**  
See paragraph 2 below

International application No.  
PCT/GB2005/000767

International filing date (day/month/year)  
01.03.2005

Priority date (day/month/year)  
01.03.2004

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC  
C07D487/04, C07D519/00, A61K31/5517, A61P35/00

Applicant  
SPIROGEN LIMITED

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- Box No. II Priority
- Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. **FURTHER ACTION**

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA"). However, this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of three months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA:



European Patent Office  
D-80298 Munich  
Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d  
Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465

Authorized Officer

Cortés, J

Telephone No. +49 89 2399-8206



WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.  
PCT/GB2005/000767

**Box No. I Basis of the opinion**

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
  - This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
  - a. type of material:
    - a sequence listing
    - table(s) related to the sequence listing
  - b. format of material:
    - in written format
    - in computer readable form
  - c. time of filing/furnishing:
    - contained in the international application as filed.
    - filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
    - furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3.  In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.  
PCT/GB2005/000767

---

**Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability**

---

The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been examined in respect of:

- the entire international application,  
 claims Nos. 17

because:

- the said international application, or the said claims Nos. 17 relate to the following subject matter which does not require an international preliminary examination (specify):

**see separate sheet**

- the description, claims or drawings (*indicate particular elements below*) or said claims Nos. are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (specify):  
 the claims, or said claims Nos. are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed.  
 no international search report has been established for the whole application or for said claims Nos.  
 the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing does not comply with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions in that:

the written form

- has not been furnished  
 does not comply with the standard

the computer readable form

- has not been furnished  
 does not comply with the standard

- the tables related to the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing, if in computer readable form only, do not comply with the technical requirements provided for in Annex C-*bis* of the Administrative Instructions.  
 See separate sheet for further details

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.  
PCT/GB2005/000767

---

**Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or  
industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

---

1. Statement

|                               |             |      |
|-------------------------------|-------------|------|
| Novelty (N)                   | Yes: Claims | 1-17 |
|                               | No: Claims  |      |
| Inventive step (IS)           | Yes: Claims |      |
|                               | No: Claims  | 1-17 |
| Industrial applicability (IA) | Yes: Claims | 1-16 |
|                               | No: Claims  |      |

2. Citations and explanations

**see separate sheet**

**Re Item III**

**Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability**

The scope of claim 1 is unclear within the meaning of Article 6 PCT due to the term "prodrugs". Prodrugs of the present compounds have not been searched.

Claim 17 relates to subject matter considered by this Authority to be covered by the provisions of Rule 67.1(iv) PCT. Consequently, no opinion will be formulated with respect to the industrial applicability of the subject matter of this claim (Article 34(4)(a)(i) PCT).

**Re Item V**

**Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

The following documents have been cited in the International Search Report:

- D1: GREGSON ET AL: "Synthesis of the first examples of A-C8/C-C2 amide-Linked pyrrolo[2,1-c][1,4]benzodiazepine dimers" BIOORGANIC & MEDICINAL CHEMISTRY LETTERS, vol. 13, no. 14, 31 May 2003 (2003-05-31), pages 2277-2280, XP002329063
- D2: KAMAL ET AL: "Synthesis and DNA-binding affinity of A-C8/C-C2 alkoxyamido-linked pyrrolo[2,1-c][1,4]benzodiazepine dimers" BIORORGANIC & MEDICINAL CHEMISTRY LETTERS, vol. 13, no. 22, 14 October 2003 (2003-10-14), pages 3955-3958, XP002329064
- D3: REDDY ET AL: "SYNTHETIC DNA MINOR GROOVE-BINDING DRUGS" PHARMACOLOGY AND THERAPEUTICS, ELSEVIER, GB, vol. 84, October 1999 (1999-10), pages 1-111, XP000984832 ISSN: 0163-7258

**Novelty (Article 33(2) PCT)**

The present compounds differ from the structurally closest related compounds in D1 to D3

in the C8-C8'-linkage of the pyrrolobenzodiazepine-dimer (PDB) or in the structure of the linker.

The present claim set is therefore novel.

**Inventive Step (Article 33(3) PCT)**

D1 to D3 disclose structurally related PDB-dimers of the alleged pharmacology and medical use. D1 can be regarded as the closest prior art.

The problem of the invention was the provision of new compounds for the treatment of proliferative diseases.

D1 discloses related PDB-dimers with C8-C8' linkages (e.g. compounds 2a and 2b) as well as PDB-dimers containing linkers as defined in the present claims 1 and 4 (compounds 3a-c and 4 a-b, respectively).

The present invention is therefore within the general teaching of D1, since it was obvious for a skilled person to combine the structural information of the exemplified compounds in D1.

Therefore the present invention lacks an inventive step.